

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

September 11, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT Commission Meeting Room

Commission Members Present:

MS Department of Corrections
MS Department of Information Technology Services
MS Department of Transportation
MS Dept of Public Safety
MS Dept of Public Safety
MS Department of Environmental Quality
MS Supervisors Association
MS National Guard
MS Emergency Management Agency
MS Fire Chiefs' Association
MS Municipal League

Chris Epps
David Litchliter
Willie Huff
Michael Berthay
James Younger
Keith Harkins
Joel Yelverton
Gary Ladd
Mike Womack
Tom Lariviere
Quincy Mukoro

Advisory Members Present:

Senator Dean Kirby
Representative Tyrone Ellis
Representative Ray Rogers
Representative Johnny Stringer

Vice-Chairman Mike Womack called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM and welcomed guests in attendance.

Vice-Chairman Womack called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Willie Huff made the motion, and it was seconded by Joel Yelverton. The motion passed with none opposed.

Chairman Epps recognized Joel Yelverton to report for the Procurement Review Committee. The Jackson County School District is requesting 156 portable radios at a total cost of \$138,290. These radios will be used in school buses and administrative areas to provide communications between schools and buses and will provide for interoperability with all Jackson County agencies, EOC, and emergency services. Mr. Yelverton stated that this request did not require Commission approval, but was presented for information purposes only. Mr. Yelverton also reported that a request for microwave equipment for Holly Springs Police Department was returned for additional information.

Willie Huff reported for the Governance/Interoperability Committee. This committee has not met since the last meeting. Co-Chairman Huff reported that the FEMA portable radios and communication system was used during Hurricane Gustav by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for the contraflow evacuation operation and other emergency responder communication needs. The devices enabled DPS and MDOT enforcement officers to have car-to-car interoperable communications resulting in a better coordinated evacuation over the wide area involved. Contraflow evacuation involves reversed lane evacuation traffic on Interstate 55 and Interstate 59. The FEMA system allowed wide area coverage for coordination of efforts on both routes with one radio. Also, during Hurricane Gustav several radios were deployed during to Pearl River and Pike Counties to allow them to communicate with the WCC. These counties are now even more interested in being a part of

MSWIN. This Governance/Interoperability Committee needs to address the associated costs for locals to be a part of the system.

Co-Chairman Huff expressed his concern with a sub-contractor of Motorola releasing statements to be quoted in the news media about political situations between area law enforcement agencies. Huff was concerned that these comments could hinder the sub-contractor's ability to work with agencies who may join MSWIN in the future. Huff further stated the sub-contractor is an authorized service shop for Motorola and the comments could be perceived as the position of Motorola.

Bill Roach gave an update on the MSWIN project. Since our last meeting, the WCC was involved in activities related to Hurricane Gustav. WCC staff handed out the cache of FEMA portables and enabled talkgroups for use during Gustav. The FEMA sites served the purpose they were designed for – coordination for evacuation and contraflow. Mr. Roach noted that while the FEMA system was never intended to be a robust production system, it recorded only a few "busies" and did not sustain any structural damage during the storm. From all feedback that the WCC staff received, the system worked very well. Mr. Roach referred to a MSWIN map that indicated the status of Phase 1A and Phase 1B sites. He noted that 12 of the 18 Phase 1A towers were erected and 4 sites were currently capable of site trunking. Microwave equipment has been shipped and will be installed as contiguous sites are completed. All Phase 1B sites have been acquired, and 10 – 12 sites should reach the site lock milestone where construction may begin within two weeks. The Detailed Design Review for Phase 1B is scheduled for September 24. Motorola has begun site design efforts on the Phase 2 sites necessary to connect Phase 1 to Jackson. Mr. Roach stated that Phase 1 should be operational by June 30, 2009.

Bill Roach discussed Change Order Number 5 which involved three issues: 1) establishment of an "executive communication" capability whereby government executives could use a phone to call in to defined talkgroups on the MSWIN system (in lieu of the original telephone interconnect feature); 2) revision of the microwave network for Phase 1B to incorporate five sites in the Natchez area and one site near the I-59 evacuation route; and 3) changing from commercial co-location sites and Motorola build sites to build-to-suit lease sites, and the building of a tower in Franklin County. These items result in a net credit of approximately \$1,359,084.50. David Litchliter made the motion to approve this request. Mike Womack seconded the motion, and it passed with none opposed.

Commissioner Epps noted that Jay Ledbetter was not in attendance. Therefore, the update on the PSIC grant will be included on the October agenda.

Keith McDonald, Vice-President of Sales and Marketing for Raytheon JPS, gave a presentation on the ACU-1000 and RoIP technologies. Several years ago the Department of Homeland Security bought ACU-1000s for all counties. Willie Huff stated that his committee would review the information and make a recommendation to the Commission.

Terrell Knight, Director of Government Accounts for Cellular South, gave a presentation on the status of the statewide contract. Cellular South now has approximately 1,000 cell sites in Mississippi. Knight also stated that approximately 75% of the cities and counties are using Cellular South.

Mr. Litchliter handed out a report on the monthly expenditures. Total expenses for August were \$48,512.36 and income from interest was \$8,717.73. The report indicated a cumulative

revenue total of \$17,867,025.23, cumulative expenses total of \$15,898,405.66, and a remaining balance of approximately \$2 million. Mike Womack made a motion to approve payment of the August expenses. Keith Harkins seconded the motion, and it passed with none opposed.

Mr. Litchliter also stated the Bond Commission will be meeting soon, and we should be receiving \$10 million of the \$20 million in bond funding authorized by the legislature in Senate Bill 3201 during the 2007 session. The project still needs additional funding as lease payments on towers have begun. There was discussion about a request for the additional \$10 million in bond funds. Willie Huff made a motion for the WCC Chairman to sign a resolution requesting the authorization of the additional \$10 million in bond funds. Joel Yelverton seconded the motion, and it passed with none opposed.

As required by law, Mr. Litchliter discussed the emergency purchases authorized by the prior WCC Chairman Phillips and current Chairman Epps. These emergency purchases included in-kind expenditures related to the FEMA communication system implementation along I-10 and lease agreements for build-to-suit towers for Phase IA and IB.

Chairman Epps discussed the need for a personnel committee to interview and select the Executive Manager and to approve selection of other WCC staff. Vice-Chairman Mike Womack appointed Joel Yelverton and Mayor Ross; David Litchliter appointed Chairman Epps; and Chairman Epps appointed Vice-Chairman Womack and David Litchliter.

The next meeting will be October 2, 2008, in the MDOT Auditorium at 1:30 PM.

There being no other business, Joel Yelverton made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Litchliter seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 PM.